

TO: EXAMINER CAM-Y TRUONG

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RE: Application No. 09/834,701

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on **October 17, 2004**.

Signed



Tim W. Curington

Identification of Submitted Papers:

Attachments (3 pages);

Pages 1-3:

Topic of Discussion for Teleconference Dated Friday,
November 5, 2004.

If you have any problems with the transmission, please contact:

Mr. Tom Ren at 713-439-0744

or

Tim W. Curington at (Tcurington@slb.com)

PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: REN ET AL.

Confirmation No.: 5019

Serial No.: 09/834,701

Group Art Unit: 2172

Filed: April 12, 2001

Examiner: TRUONG, CAM Y T

For: ADVANCED METHOD AND SYSTEM
OF AUTOMATIC POPULATION AND
MAINTENANCE OF A WEB-BASED
DATABASE

Attorney Docket: REN,01B

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TOPIC OF DISCUSSION FOR TELECONFERENCE**DATED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004**

Examiner Truong:

Pursuant to our conversation on October 13, 2004, I am sending you this brief discussion so that you can prepare for our teleconference that will be conducted at 11:00 AM eastern on Friday, November 5, 2004. I will be joined in the teleconference by the first named inventor, Mr. Tom Ren. We will call you at the time stated.

As you are aware, the claims of the above-referenced application have been finally rejected in view of two (2) primary references: USPN 6,144,959 (Anderson et al) and USPN 6,269,369 (Robertson). Anderson discloses a system for managing user accounts and Robertson discloses a Personal Contact Manager.

In your rejection of independent Claims 1 and 17, the Official Action dated September 13, 2004 places reliance on Robertson to teach the limitations of "receiving records of individuals from an existing database automatically and without registration by the individuals; populating a web-based database with the individual records of the non-registered individual."

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the interpretation of Robertson when viewed in light of Applicant's invention. As has been discussed, Applicant's invention automatically populates a web-based database with records from an existing database such as a customer list. The claims, when read in light of the specification, reasonably apprise those skilled in the art that the "web-based database" is populated with records from an existing database (such as a customer list) ***automatically and without registration*** by the individual customers. In other words, the web-based database is a "passive" system in that the individuals do not have to register with the web-based database and are generally unaware of the automatic population of their records until receipt of the automatically transmitted access account.

Robertson, by contrast, describes a personal contact system designed for the purpose of "creating links between ***members (registered individuals)*** over a network and providing information to each ***member*** based on levels of permission maintained by the other ***members*** to which they are linked." [col. 1, lines 7-10]. The personal contact system "is based on a relational database scalable to millions of users that resides on a server computer." [col. 2, lines 51-52]. The relational "database 340 contains contact information entered by ***registered users***." [col. 4, lines 42-43]. In other words, the users of the personal contact system have ***registered*** to become ***members*** of the system. Accordingly, the personal address book (database) of each individual is populated by data records of other ***registered individuals***. Further, the receipt of the records of the ***registered individuals*** into each personal address book is not ***automatic***. Rather, a first individual can request that the records of a ***registered individual*** be added to the first individual's address book, but the addition of the data is dependent upon the ***registered individual*** granting permission to the first individual.

As such, Robertson cannot be relied upon to teach the claimed limitation of "receiving records of individuals from an existing database ***automatically and without registration*** by the individuals." As discussed above, the individuals in Robertson have ***registered*** to be members of the personal contacts system. The ***registered individuals*** are knowingly providing their data records for potential use (based on permissions) by other members of the system. Further, the population of their records into other member's databases is ***not automatic*** but rather dependent upon permissions being granted.

Accordingly, prima facie obviousness has not been established and the rejections of independent Claims 1 and 17 should be withdrawn.

Mr. Ren and I would like to discuss the above points regarding the obviousness rejections of Claims 1 and 17 and are hopeful of coming to agreement on the above traversal of the rejections or coming to agreement on alternate claim language acceptable to the Examiner.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this paper please contact myself by email (Tcurington@slb.com) or Mr. Ren at 713-439-0744.

I look forward to speaking with you,



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